

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended): A fencing system, comprising:  
a rail consisting of at least two metal wires ensheathed in a plastic web;  
a slotted connector having a face plate with two slots formed within the face in a planar surface thereof, the connector including and a substantially planar middle portion separating the two slots, the connector having a front side and a rear side and also having a post attachment end;

a free end of the rail being disposed in the slotted connector so that the rail runs from the front side of the connector through a first slot nearest the post attachment end, around the middle portion, and then back through the second slot; and

a post to which the end slotted connector is attached using a fastener.

2. (Currently Amended): The fencing system of claim 1, wherein the end slotted connector comprises return edges extending along opposing sides of the rigid member, the return edges extending perpendicularly from the face plate.

3. (Currently Amended): The fencing system of claim 1, wherein the end slotted connector is attached to the post using a fastener which permits the connector to pivot about the fastener.

4. (Original): The fencing system of claim 3, wherein the faceplate further comprises a throughhole adapted to receive the fastener.

5. (Original): The fencing system of claim 1, wherein the fastener is a lag bolt.

6. (Original): The fencing system of claim 1, wherein the faceplate includes a bend between the first slot and the post attachment end.

7. (Original): The fencing system of claim 1, wherein the connector is made of steel.

8. (Original): The fencing system of claim 1, wherein the rail is rigid yet manually deformable.

9. (Original): The fencing system of claim 1, wherein the post is a wooden post with a circular cross section.

10. (Original): The fencing system of claim 1, further including a slotted joining connector having a face plate with a first slot, a second slot, and a third slot, the joining connector having a front side and a rear side.

11. (Original): The fencing system of claim 10, further comprising a second rail consisting of at least two metal wires ensheathed in a plastic web, with ends of the first and second rails being in abutting relationship to each other.

12. (Original): The fencing system of claim 11, wherein the first slot and the second slot are adapted to receive the abutting end of the first rail and the second slot and the third slot are adapted to receive the abutting end of the second rail.

13. (Currently Amended): A connector for composite metal and plastic fence rails, comprising:

a face plate with at least two parallel slots formed within the face plate and defined within a planar surface thereof and a substantially planar middle portion separating the two slots, the face plate having a front side and a rear side, the slots sized and shaped to receive a full width and thickness of at least one fence rail therein, wherein the rail is constructed such that it is rigid yet manually deformable.

14. (Original) The connector of claim 13, including three slots each being parallel to and spaced from its adjacent slot, with the middle slot being slightly wider than the two end slots.

15. (Original) The connector of claim 13, wherein the face plate further comprises return edges extending along opposing ends of the face plate, the return edges extending perpendicularly from the face plate.

16. (Original) The connector of claim 13, wherein the faceplate further comprises a throughhole adapted to receive a fastener for securing the connector to a fence post.

17-20. (Withdrawn)

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

--A fencing system includes a rail having at least two metal wires ensheathed in a plastic web, an end connector having a face plate with two slots and a middle portion separating the two slots, the end connector having a front side and a rear side. A free end of the rail is disposed in the slotted end connector so that the rail runs from the front side of the connector through a first slot, around the middle portion, and then back through a second slot. A fastener pivotally attaches the end connector to a fence post. Also, a joining connector of similar construction as the end connector is used to secure the free ends of two rails. ~~Methods for securing a rail to a connector and for securing the free ends of two rails to a joining connector are also disclosed...~~

A clean copy of the Abstract is attached hereto.